

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 10664

EXDIS

FOR MOOSE FROM MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UN, RO
SUBJECT: ROMANIAN ASSESSMENT OF U.S. SUCCESS AT UN

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT STANLEY FOUNDATION CONFERENCE FOR UN OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, UN ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR DATCU SOUGHT OUT ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES TO GIVE HIS IMPRESSIONS OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION IN UN. BASIC MESSAGE WAS THAT BECAUSE OF ITS AFRICAN POLICY, ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE MAJOR GAINS, THAT SOVIETS ARE TRYING HARD TO DERAIL U.S. AFRICAN POLICY, AND THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT U.S. MAINTAIN MOMENTUM IN ITS POLICY, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY.

2. DATCU PULLED MAYNES ASIDE AT RECEPTION JUNE 24 TO SAY THAT HE HAD JUST DISCUSSED WITH UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL BUFFUM AN ASSESSMENT OF U.S. POSITION IN THE UN WHICH HE HAD JUST SENT BUCHAREST. BUFFUM URGED THAT HE DISCUSS HIS VIEWS WITH MAYNES. ACCORDING TO DATCU, HE HAD JUST SENT LENGTHY REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT COMMENTING ON CONFIDENTIAL

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SUCCESS U.S. HAS HAD IN BREAKING OUT OF ITS ISOLATION AT UN. DATCU SAID HE REPORTED TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT IN PAST U.S., EITHER THROUGH INADVERTENCE OR THROUGH DESIGN, SEEMED TO GO OUT OF ITS WAY TO PROVOKE AFRICAN BLOC AT UN. THIS NEGATIVE POLICY BEGAN WITH KISSINGER, WHO IGNORED LDCS, AND PEAKED WITH MOYNIHAN, WHO PROVOKED THEM. NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD SUCCESSFULLY BROKEN OUT OF THIS

STERILE PATTERN AND HAD MANAGED TO ESTABLISH CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL AMONG NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. KEY TO THIS SUCCESS WAS ATTENTION BEING PLACED ON AFRICA.

3. DATCU SAID HE POINTED OUT TO BUCHAREST THAT DANGER FOR U.S., HOWEVER, LAY AHEAD IF IT COULD NOT SUSTAIN MOMENTUM IN ITS AFRICAN POLICY. IT WAS, IN HIS OPINION, VERY IMPORTANT THAT U.S. BE ABLE TO DELIVER ON AT LEAST ONE OF THE CENTRAL SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS--RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF. NAMIBIA SEEMED THE RIPLEST. IF THE U.S. SUCCEEDED IN THIS, THEN DATCU BELIEVED IT WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT NOT ONLY ON UN CONSIDERATION OF OTHER AFRICAN PROBLEMS BUT EVEN ON UN CONSIDERATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST LATER THIS YEAR.

4. BUT, DATCU CAUTIONED, THERE WERE "SOME" URGING THE AFRICANS TO REPUDIATE THE AMERICAN AND WESTERN EFFORTS IN NAMIBIA. WHEN MAYNES ASKED WHO THESE "SOME" MIGHT BE, DATCU ANSWERED, "OF COURSE, THE SOVIETS." DATCU CONTENTED THAT WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL, HE AND INDIAN AMBASSADOR JAIPAL HAVE BEEN ABLE TO USE NEW U.S. INITIATIVES IN AFRICA TO CONTROL THE EXTREMISTS. THIS WAS HARDER WITH THE LIBYANS "BECAUSE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE." BUT HE FELT THAT THEY HAD HAD SOME SUCCESS WITH BENIN. WITH REGARD TO AFRICAN TENSION BETWEEN EXTREMISTS AND MODERATES, DATCU ADDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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TO PROTECT THE POSITION OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG. THOSE WHO ARE TRYING TO DISCREDIT THE U.S. POSITION ARGUE THAT U.S. HAS CLEVERLY SENT ELOQUENT BLACK AMERICAN TO HEAD U.S. MISSION BUT THAT U.S. POLICY HAS NOT REALLY CHANGED. CONSEQUENTLY, DATCU ASSERTED IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AT FIRST SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON AFRICA, U.S. GOVERNMENT "GIVE ANDY SOMETHING TO SAY." OTHERWISE, THE DISCREDITORS COULD GAIN THE UPPER HAND.

5. DATCU SAID HE HAS FOUND THAT WITHIN UN, KEY AFRICANS ARE ZAMBIANS, TANZANIANS AND NIGERIANS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH NIGERIANS NOW, HOWEVER. RADICALS ARE UNDERMINING NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN BY ARGUING THAT HE HAS SOLD OUT TO THE AMERICANS. THIS HAS MADE HARRIMAN MORE CAUTIOUS. (DATCU'S REPORT ON THE PROBLEMS HARRIMAN IS HAVING WITH HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES WOULD HELP EXPLAIN THE ALMOST PERSONAL ATTACK HARRIMAN LAUNCHED AGAINST AMBASSADOR YOUNG IN MAPUTO. IT WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN HIS EFFORTS AFTER MAPUTO TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO EXPLAIN HIS BEHAVIOR AT MAPUTO.)

6. COMMENT: THIS IS ONLY ONE IN A SERIES OF REPORTS WE

HAVE HAD SUGGESTING THAT THE SOVIETS ARE UNCOMFORTABLE
WITH THE U.S.'S NEW INTEREST IN AFRICA. BUT IT COMES
FROM AN INTERESTING SOURCE. THOMPSON

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